
ANNUAL REPORT

upon

The **HEALTH** of the
RURAL DISTRICT OF
PONTYPOOL

For the Year 1937



By E. L. M. HACKETT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



PORTHCARNE,

USK,

June, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Pontypool.*

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1937, arranged in accordance with Circular Memo. 1650 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.


SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area, population, density per house and occupants.

Since 1935 the District has been comprised of seven parishes with a total area of 34,147 acres. The rateable value of the present District on April 1st, 1937, was £17,673, and the produce of a 1d. rate (Housing Formula) was £69 5s. 2d. (1937-8).

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population in March, 1937, was 5349.

Past variations being

		Former District.	Added Area.
1911	..	5047	?
1921	..	5307	507
1931	..	5128	455
			
1935	..	5430	
1936	..	5434	
1937	..	5349	

The number of inhabited houses (end of 1937), according to rate books, was 1376.

In 1931 the number of separate dwellings was 1299, and the population in private families represented 3·86 per dwelling. The number of "census families" or separate occupiers (which includes lodgers, filling separate schedules) was 1298 ; 48 houses being vacant (37 unfurnished).

Since the census the population of the District has substantially decreased according to the Registrar General's estimate to less than 5000, but the number of separate dwellings has increased.

The population of the residential Urban District of Usk, which the rural district surrounds, decreased (1921-31) from 1494 to 1315 with 361 separate dwellings, the population in private families being 3·5 per separate dwelling.

The population of the six industrial Urban Areas on the West (now reduced to 3) decreased from 69,576 to 66,878, with 15,701 separate dwellings, the population in private families representing 4·2 per separate dwelling.

The population of the Administrative County of Monmouth decreased from 358,436 to 345,755, while the separate dwellings increased from 68,026 (1101 vacant) to 77,998 (1906 vacant).

Of the population of 5128 in 1931, males and females, or a total of , were enumerated as following occupations, compared with 1814 and 449, or a total of 2263 in 1921.

The following were the leading occupations :—

	1931.		1921.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Agriculture			794	76
Metal Workers			243	9
Mining and Quarrying ..			155	—
Commercial & Professional	(Not yet published)		127	97
Transport			111	5
Building			93	1
Wood Workers			62	—
Personal Service			32	229

No noteworthy conditions prejudicial to the health of the area have arisen.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births—Legitimate	54	35	19	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10·46.
„ Illegitimate	2	0	2	
Total live births ..	56	35	21	
Stillbirths	4	3	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 11·21.
Illegitimate		0	0	
Deaths	45	30	15	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 8·41.

There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births.. .. .	18·51
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	18·51
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births..	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	6
„ Measles (all ages)	Nil.
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

Pontypool Rural District.

Birth Rate, 10·46.
 Death Rate, 8·41.
 Infantile Mortality Rate, 18·51.

County of Monmouth.

Birth Rate, 15·5.
 Death Rate, 12·6.
 Infantile Mortality Rate, 63·9.

England and Wales.

Birth Rate, 14·9.
 Death Rate, 12·4.
 Infantile Mortality Rate, 58·0.

**Analysis of Causes of Death of Children under One Year of age
 in the Area.**

Under 1 Week	..	..	1
1—2 Weeks	..	..	0
2—3 „	..	..	0
3—4 „	..	..	0
			<hr/>
Total under 1 Month	..		1
			<hr/>
1—3 Months	..	..	0
3—6 „	..	..	0
6—9 „	..	..	0
9—12 „	..	..	0
			<hr/>
Total under one Year	..		1
			<hr/>

The death rate of the Rural District would be slightly more favourable, if the greater average age of the inhabitants, compared with that of those in England and Wales, were taken in to account. For this purpose the Registrar General supplies a "comparability factor," viz., .92, by which the death rate can be multiplied to produce a corrected death rate of 7.74, comparing with England and Wales at 12.4. At the same time it must be pointed out that with such a small population the rate for a single year is not literally comparable.

Some interesting figures as to ages at death during the last 8 years in the Registration Sub-district of Usk, which includes the Urban District of Usk and the bulk of the Rural District, were recently estimated as follows:—

Ages (years)	Average Age.	No. of Deaths.
0—10	1	23
10—20	10	25
20—30	25	10
30—40	36	13
40—50	45	15
50—60	56	28
60—70	67	73
70—80	76	82
80—90	84	45
90—100	93	4

There were 8 deaths from Tuberculosis during those years : 4 between 20 and 30, and 4 between 30 and 40.

S.D.55.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, } England and Wales, London,
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES FOR } 125 Great Towns and
CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1937. } 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	125 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
	Rates per 1,000 Population			
Births:—				
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54
Deaths:—				
All Causes	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3
Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05
Influenza	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38
Violence	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51

Notifications:—

Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09
Diphtheria ..	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93
Enteric Fever ..	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas ..	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44
Pneumonia ..	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18

Rates per 1,000 Live Births

Deaths under 1 year of age ..	58	62	55	60
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ..	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0

Maternal Mortality:—

Puerperal Sepsis ..	0.97	Not available		
Others ..	2.26			
Total ..	3.23			

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (*i.e.* Live and Still)**Maternal Mortality:—**

Puerperal Sepsis ..	0.94	Not available		
Others ..	2.17			
Total ..	3.11			

Notifications:—

Puerperal fever ..	13.93	17.59	11.52	{
Puerperal pyrexia ..				

4.15
14.34

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The following are the Public Health Officers of the Council with the qualifications, etc. :

Clerk and Medical Officer, part time ; Surveyor, whole time ; Sanitary Inspector, whole time jointly with Urban District of Usk.

Veterinary Surgeon	..	County Council.
Public Analyst	.. ..	„
Vaccination Officer	..	„
Health Visitors	.. ..	„

The Medical Officer of Health has no special qualifications, but in addition to his ordinary part time duties as Medical Officer of Health also acts as Public Assistance Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Medical Officer of Health of the Urban District of Usk.

The Tuberculosis Officer, Venereal Disease, Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officers, Consultants, Dental Surgeon, etc., are all under the control of the County Council.

Nursing in the Home.

General—by private Nurses.

Infectious Diseases—Cases are removed where necessary to Isolation Hospitals of adjoining Councils by arrangement.

Public Assistance Medical Out-Relief.

Not requisitioned to any great extent in the Rural Areas and administered in much the same manner as heretofore, by the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.

Examination of Clinical material, and examination and analysis of Water, Milk and Foodstuffs, is undertaken by the County Council or the County Analyst, according to circumstances.

Legislation in force in the Area.

Most of the Adoptive Acts. Bye-Laws throughout District. Miscellaneous Orders of the Ministry of Health in respect of Sewage Disposal, Collection of House Refuse and Public Lighting in semi-urban areas. New Bye-Laws as to new streets and buildings were under consideration at the close of the year and have since been adopted and approved. A resolution to prepare a planning scheme under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, was approved by the Minister of Health on the 13th April, 1938.

Public Health Services.

Water Supply.

There is a good supply of water of good quality available throughout the area. The Council provide a piped supply of excellent quality in the Parish of Llanfrechfa Lower, the water being purchased in bulk from the Newport County Borough Council for the Ponthir area, and from the Pontypool Gas and Water Co. for Croesyceiliog, The Garw, Lower Pontnewydd, Llantarnam and The Waun. The connections now number 276 (including 9 dependent on a standpipe), and comprise practically all the houses reasonably accessible. A few houses in Llanbadoc

are supplied by the Usk Water Co., and in Goetre from the Llanover Estate private piped supply. Special investigation during recent droughts led to findings, that no further public schemes were called for, but the Council recently took advantage of the opportunity, arising through the promotion of a Bill providing for the amalgamation of the Pontypool and Usk Water Undertakings, to secure a clause compelling the undertakers to lay a main along the Pontypool to Usk Main Road within two years, and at the time of writing this is in course of construction.

The provisions of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, are strictly enforced.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Council have provided a scheme covering Croesyceiliog, The Garw and Lower Pontnewydd, with which about 204 houses are connected. The other villages are not considered as lending themselves to public water carriage systems on a reasonably economic basis, but combined schemes have been provided by private owners in a number of cases. The remainder are mainly isolated dwellings, provided with privies, earth closets, or water closets, draining to adjoining land.

House Refuse.

The Council collect by means of a contractor's motor lorry the refuse from the whole of the Parish of Llanfrechfa Lower (the same being tipped in an old brick field in a secluded and safe position), also from the houses in Woodside, Llanbadoc.

Occasionally, unsightly accumulations have arisen in other parts of the district, and been removed to secluded spots.

Public Lighting.

The Council provide a lamp in Woodside, Llanbadoc, and the Parish Council of Llanfrechfa Lower a generous Electric lighting scheme in that Parish. Electric light and power is now available in all the villages and en route thereto.

Flood Prevention.

For some years this matter has been actively pursued, and a large number of notices have been served under Section 54 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the clearance of brooks and ditches, and enforced, so substantially reducing the inconvenience to traffic, and the water level under and around some of the low-lying dwellings.

Hospitals.

The following Hospitals are available for the inhabitants of the area :—

General Medical and General Surgical—

Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.

Pontypool and District Hospital.

Public Assistance Hospital, Griffithstown.

Children—Royal Gwent and Pontypool and District Hospitals.

Maternity—Nantyderry House.

Venereal Diseases—Royal Gwent.

Tuberculosis—King Edward VII Memorial Hospitals and Sanatoria for Monmouthshire.

Infectious Diseases—Newport.

Small Pox—County Small Pox Isolation Hospitals.

Mental—Abergavenny and Caerleon Mental Institutions.

Maternal Mortality—All cases specially investigated by County Medical Officer of Health.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers—
Nantyderry House.

Ambulance Facilities are adequate for the area.

- (a) *Infectious Cases*—Fever Hospital Ambulances, Newport.
- (b) *Non-Infectious Cases*—Pontypool and District Hospital Ambulances, and St. John Motor Ambulance, Usk.

Clinics and Treatment Centres—As for the County, and under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Rivers and Streams.—Every effort is made by the Officers of the Council to prevent avoidable pollution. Legal action is taken by Usk Board of Conservators in cases of wilful pollution. The matter of flood prevention is being systematically pursued under the powers of the Public Health Acts.

The chief special work of the Council has been the systematic clearance of water courses, more particularly in Llanfrechfa Lower and the neighbourhood of Usk, with a view to preventing flooding of the highways, and draining the surroundings of houses and sub-soil, so far as possible.

They are advised that the course of the Usk is becoming more inefficient, and are pressing the County Council to organise a comprehensive clearance scheme.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—See Appendix.

Schools.—The sanitation and water supply of the Schools in the Area is satisfactory.

Rag Flock Works.

There is one Rag Flock Works in the District, which is regularly inspected. The product has been found to comply with the prescribed chemical standards.

Housing.

See remarks at commencement of report and Appendix.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

See Appendix.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were 5 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 cases of Diphtheria, and 1 case of Pneumonia ; there were no deaths.

All children whose parents gave consent were immunised against Diphtheria in 1935. This was carried out at the expense of the Council by the County Medical Officer's Staff, and is now being brought up to date.

Infectious Diseases.

In all cases of notifiable diseases the premises were disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

The prompt notification by Schools of Infectious Diseases is a great help in the prevention of the spread of these diseases.

No Malaria or Dysentery occurred in the Area.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Laboratory, and a supply of Anti-Diphtheritic Serum is always available.

Vaccinations.

Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year 1936.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox.. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	5	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	3	3	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Para-Typhoid).. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	1	Nil	1
Erysipelas	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lethargic-Encephalitis	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	1

Prevention of Blindness.

Nil.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of New Cases of Tuberculosis and
Deaths from the Disease during 1936.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
10				1				
15								
25		1						
35								
45								
55	1				1			
65 & upwards					1			
Totals ..	1	1	Nil	1	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

No action taken under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

There were no unnotified Tuberculosis deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN

PONTYPOOL RURAL DISTRICT, 1937.

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females.
All Causes				30	15
1	Typhoid & Para-Typhoid Fevers			..	..
2	Measles .. ..			..	..
3	Scarlet fever .. ..			..	..
4	Whooping cough .. ..			..	..
5	Diphtheria .. ..			..	..
6	Influenza .. ..			..	..
7	Encephalitis lethargica .. ..			..	..
8	Cerebro-spinal fever .. ..			..	1
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system			2	..
10	Other tuberculous diseases .. ..			..	..
11	Syphilis .. ..			..	..
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis. .. ..			..	..
13	Cancer, malignant disease			6	..
14	Diabetes .. ..			..	..
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.			1	3
16	Heart Disease			9	4
17	Aneurysm .. ..			..	..
18	Other circulatory diseases			2	..
19	Bronchitis			1	2
20	Pneumonia (all forms)			1	..
21	Other respiratory diseases			2	..
22	Peptic ulcer			1	..
23	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) .. ..			..	..
24	Appendicitis .. ..			..	..
25	Cirrhosis of liver .. ..			..	..
26	Other diseases of liver, etc. .. ..			..	..
27	Other digestive diseases .. ..			..	1
28	Acute and chronic nephritis .. ..			..	..
29	Puerperal sepsis .. ..			..	..
30	Other puerperal causes .. ..			..	..
31	Congenital debility premature birth, malformations, etc.			1	..
32	Senility .. ..			..	2
33	Suicide .. ..			..	..
34	Other violence			3	1
35	Other defined diseases			1	1
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown .. ..			..	..
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):					
	Small-pox .. ..			..	..
	Poliomyelitis .. ..			..	..
	Polioencephalitis .. ..			..	..
Deaths of infants under 1 year					
	Total			1	..
	Legitimate			1	..
	Illegitimate .. ..			..	..
Live Births					
	Total			35	21
	Legitimate			35	19
	Illegitimate .. ..			..	2
Stillbirths					
	Total			3	1
	Legitimate			3	1
	Illegitimate .. ..			..	..

Your death rate, Infantile Mortality rate and Maternal death rate are very favourable compared with that of the County and England and Wales. Your birth rate is still low but this can be accounted for by the number of old people who have retired to your Rural District and who make up the population on which the statistics are based. This fact makes your low death rate all the more remarkable.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. L. M. HACKETT.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1937.**

*Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Abergavenny Road,
Usk.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting hereunder my report of the work carried out in my department during 1937.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

Houses	111
Re-inspections	544
Tents, Vans, etc... .. .	6
Nuisances	71
Cowsheds	243
Dairies	79
Slaughter-houses	101
Factories and Workshops	20
Water Supplies	23
Disinfections	7
Disinfestations	1
Total ..	1206

Housing Tables.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

- (i) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts .. 111
Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 118
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. 101
Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 108
- (iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 5
- (iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 62

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 31

3. Action under Statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23, Housing Act, 1930.

- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) by owners Nil
 - (b) by local authority in default of owners .. Nil

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 15

- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) by owners 4
- (b) by local authority in default of owners .. 0
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—
- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 4
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0
- (iii) Closed but not demolished 2
- (d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.
- (i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0
- (ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms closed in pursuance of Closing Orders .. 0
4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding—*
- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 9
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 9
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 51
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil
- (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 9
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. 51

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

No nuisance reported although six camping grounds were visited.

SCHOOLS.

No defect came to my notice during the year.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.**Particulars on Registers:—**

Cowkeepers	159
Dairymen	63

Number of Inspections:—

Cowsheds	243
Dairies	79

Total..	322
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Defects found in Cowsheds and Dairies:—

Dirty interiors	23
Dirty milking stools	13
Dirty approach..	..	..	..	..	5
Unsatisfactory drainage	..	..	..	..	13
Unsatisfactory lighting and ventilation	..	..	..	..	6
Dirty dairy utensils	..	..	..	..	1

61

MEAT INSPECTION.

The number killed is unknown, as slaughtering for sale for human consumption without previous notification is prevalent in the Area.

Number of carcasses inspected:—

Cows 2, Calves 14, Sheep 112, Pigs 221.

All was found to be free from disease.

NUISANCES.

A number of nuisances arising from chickens, refuse, etc., were abated during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Prosecu- tions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ..	9	Nil	Nil
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	11	Nil	Nil
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	20	Nil	Nil

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES Nil.

3.—HOME WORK.

There are no " Outworkers " in the District.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of the year :—

Wheelwrights	1
Flock Works	1
Grist Mills	2
Saw Mills	1
Blacksmith Shops	5
Brick Works	1

Total number of Workshops on Register .. 11

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) in use at the end of the year ..	Nil

SHOPS.

No action taken.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No case arose.

SWIMMING BATHS.

None in Area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

One hostel was treated with So_2 to eradicate bed bugs. Only one room was infected but the two rooms on either side were fumigated as a precaution.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES H. M. JOLLIFFE.

